



SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Secretary Kelly Thomasson

The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth is responsible for assisting the Governor in a number of different capacities including, but not limited to

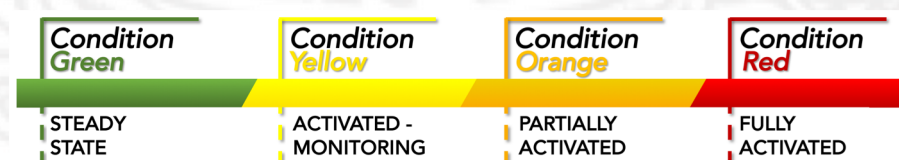
- Facilitation of appointments to state boards and commissions;
- Authentication of documents for foreign use;
- Processing and reviewing pardon petitions;
- Managing extradition requests;
- Commissioning Notaries Public;
- Managing the restoration of civil rights process;
- Assisting Virginians pursuing civil remedies for financial losses;
- Serving as liaison to Virginia's 11 recognized Indian tribes;
- Keeper of the State Seal;
- Facilitating communication with the Governor.

Virginia Emergency Support Team

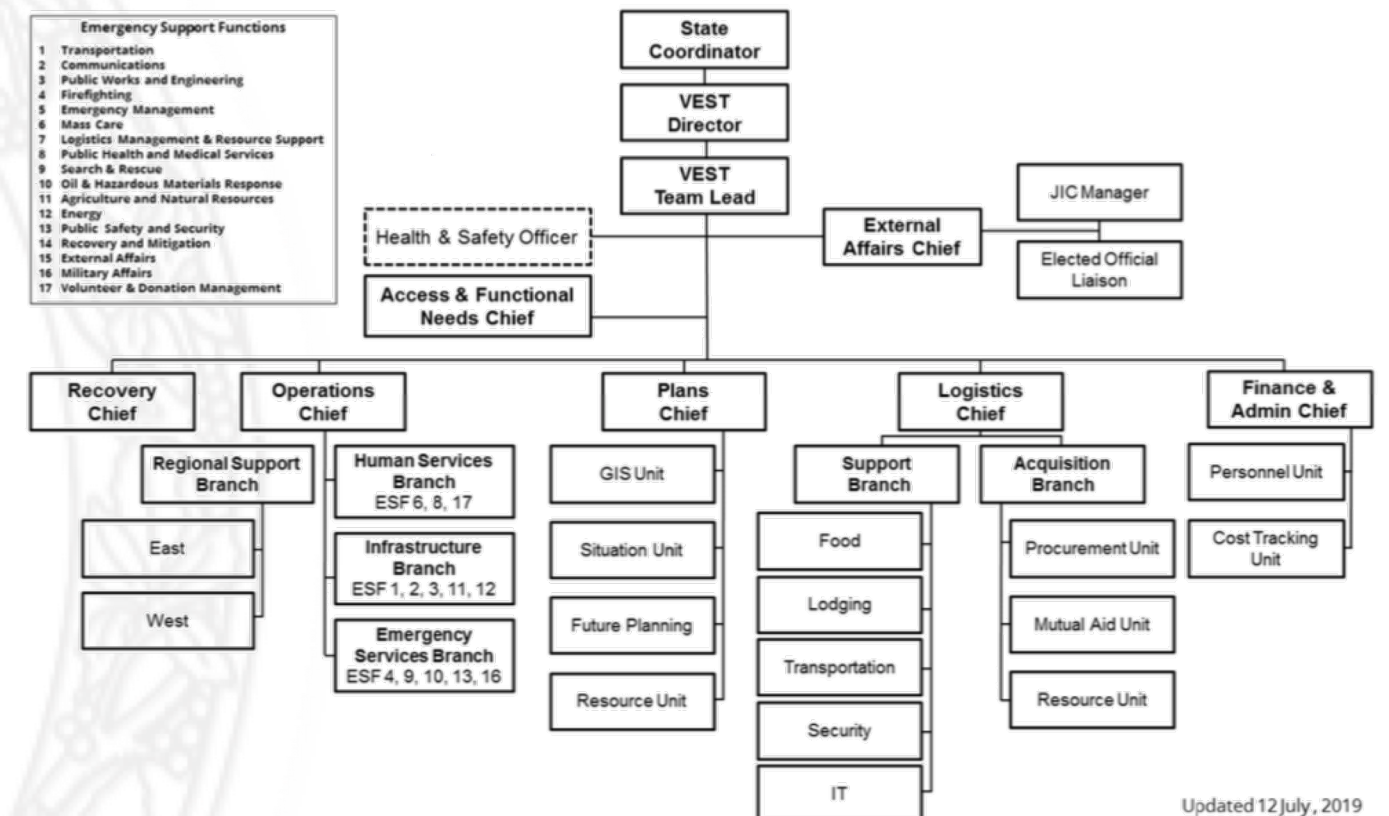
The Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) is the Commonwealth's coordination and support mechanism to help localities prepare for, respond to, and recover from notice and no-notice events. The VEST may be activated when the Governor declares a State of Emergency; when the impacts of an event exceed the capacity of local and regional partners; and at the direction of the Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management State Coordinator or VEST Director in support of a high-profile emergency or non-emergency event that demonstrates a need for state-level resources.

VEST Activation Levels

The VEST uses a color-code system for denoting the levels of activation, ranging from Green/Steady State (typical for non-emergency periods) to Red/Fully Activated (during a major emergency or planned event requiring the engagement of many or all ESFs).



VEST ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Updated 12 July, 2019

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Emergency Support Functions

Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) group governmental and certain private sector capabilities into an organizational structure to provide support, resources, program implementation and services that are most likely needed to save lives, protect property and the environment, restore essential services and critical infrastructure, and help victims and communities return to normal following incidents.

Each ESF has a Lead Agency and Supporting Agencies that collaborate to execute their responsibilities.

1 Transportation

Integrates the responsibilities of state agencies for the prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, infrastructure restoration, safety, and security of all Commonwealth transportation infrastructures.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Dept. of Transportation

2 Communications

Assists state agencies, local governments, private-sector entities, and voluntary organizations requiring communications and information technology (IT) related equipment and services in preparation for or in response to emergencies and disasters.

Lead Supporting
Information Technologies Agency

3 Public Works & Engineering

Coordinates and organizes the delivery of essential public works and engineering services using the capabilities and resources of the Commonwealth.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Department of Health

4 Firefighting

Monitors and supports firefighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on all private, state, and federal lands and provides resource support as needed.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Dept. of Fire Programs
Virginia Dept. of Forestry

5 Emergency Management

The VEST Command and General Staff make up ESF 5. The Command and General Staff includes the State Coordinator, VEST Director, VEST Team Lead, Health and Safety Officer, Access and Functional Needs Chief, PIO and Private Sector. ESF 5 coordinates and supports the overall activities of state government as related to emergency management.

6 Mass Care

Coordinates delivery of state services; implementation of the Commonwealth’s mass care, sheltering and related plans; and coordination of support to local government and non-governmental organization mass care and emergency assistance operations.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Dept. of Social Services

7 Logistics

Manage and provide resources, including disaster procurement, warehousing and distribution in support of emergency response and recovery operations.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management
Department of General Services

8 Public Health & Medical Services

Coordinates state-level operations and coordinates state support of local government and non-governmental operations.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Department of Health

9 Search and Rescue

Deploys components of the SAR Response System to provide specialized life-saving assistance to local jurisdictions during any type of incident.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management

10 Oil & Hazardous Materials Response

Coordinates and directs state support in response to an actual or potential discharge and/or uncontrolled release of oil or hazardous materials.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management

11 Agriculture & Natural Resources

Coordinates state-level operations and coordinates state support of local government and non-governmental operations.

Lead Supporting
Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services

12 Energy

Coordinates the restoration of damaged or destroyed energy systems and components during an emergency incident.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management

13 Public Safety & Security

Integrates state-level public safety and security capabilities and resources to support response activities associated with potential or actual incidents.

Lead Supporting
Virginia State Police

14 Private Sector

This is a newly designated ESF. Coordinates role of business community stakeholders and private sector partners in support of Commonwealth’s response and recovery operations.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management

15 Joint Information Center (JIC)

Provides accurate, coordinated, and timely information to private sector, general public and government agencies during a potential or actual incident.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management All Agencies

16 Military Affairs

Integrates all supporting Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Military Affairs resources into the Commonwealth’s coordinated response.

Lead Supporting
Department of Military Affairs

17 Volunteer & Donations Management

Coordinates and integrates the delivery of donated goods and volunteer services from non-profit organizations and individuals in support of disaster relief.

Lead Supporting
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management